

REMARKS

Consideration of this continued prosecution application (CPA), as amended, is requested.

The Applicants have amended Figure 2 and included herein two copies of the redlined drawing changes and one corrected clean copy. No new matter has been added. The amendments are supported in the specification at page 6, line 17. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter and approve the proposed drawing changes.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The Applicants have amended claim 17, as indicated herein, to address this rejection.

Claims 15-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Kadaba (US patent 6,285,916), effective date October 14, 1994. However, the Office Action appears to have incorrectly identified Kadaba as disclosing "an updated processing and transmission system and method (a rule-based messaging system implemented in networked computer system, col. 6 L 3-5)". The Applicants believe the Examiner intended to cite Schutzman (US patent 5,627,764), which discloses a rule-based messaging system implemented in network computer system [see col. 6 lines 3-5].

Nonetheless, the Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because neither Kadaba or Schutzman disclose each and every element of the invention, as claimed.

Claim 15 , as amended, includes the following limitations:

"storage means for storing status information relating to a commerce-related event;

status information retrieval means for retrieving said status information;

message generation means for automatically generating a status message reflective of said status information; and

message forwarding means for automatically forwarding said status message to a point where it may be accessed by an interested party."

The Office Action contends that the following disclosure in Schutzman is anticipatory of the "storage means" limitation of claim 15:

"Persistent events, such as FILED, READ, NEW, PERIODIC, and TIMER events, which are likely to persist across messaging system application invocations, require a separate storage mechanism. Persistent events are stored in a persistent event queue 28 preferably maintained on disk which is accessed only by a persistent event manager 26 component of the event manager 24." (Column 10, lines 27-33).

Claim 15 calls for the storage of status information relating to a commerce-related event. Schutzman, in the above-quoted text, simply discloses persistent events. Events are explained in Schutzman as follows:

"The events may be a function of a timer integral with the system, or a function of a folder destination of a particular message, or a function of the form of a mail message according to the mail messaging system. Additionally, events may be any of various occurrences of a user interacting with a user interface, such as manually clicking a mouse on a portion of a graphical interface, or dragging and dropping an icon on a drop well portion of a graphical interface, or the like. Various and numerous events as discussed hereinafter, can be specified to trigger evaluation of a condition and invocation of corresponding action(s). Preferably event types will accommodate respective operands to permit further specification of relevant messages to be considered for rule invocation, to further enhance the efficiency of the rule mechanism. Event types, described hereinafter, are created and processed by an event manager using a common set of data structures and routines." (Column 6, lines 42-58).

The Office Action contends that the following disclosure in Schutzman is anticipatory of the "message generation means" limitation of claim 15:

"A NEW message event type (WHEN NEW), is used to specify application of rules to a new message which has been received by the electronic mail application over a network mail transport agent (MTA) and placed in a message store. Upon receipt of a message packet from the MTA over the network interface (i.e. a NEW message), a NEW message event is created by the event manager, according to a data structure illustrated in FIG. 3a. The NEW message event is created indicating the date and time of receipt of the new message. A message identifier or unique identifier (UID) is included in the NEW event to point to the message (which may be stored using the host

(operating system filing facilities) associated with the NEW message event. The NEW message event is stored to an event queue to be processed as discussed hereinafter."

(Column 6, line 59- column 7, line 6).

Claim 15 requires that the message generation means automatically generate a status message reflective of said status information. The above disclosure in Schutzman is limited to an event message, and does not disclose the generation of a status message reflective of status information relating to a commerce-related event.

Claim 20 includes the following limitations:

*"storing status information relating to a commerce-related event;
retrieving said status information;
automatically generating a status message reflective of said status information;
and
automatically forwarding said status message to a point where it may be accessed by an interested party.*

Independent claim 20 includes limitations similar to those recited in claim 15. Therefore, at least for the reasons presented above, claim 20 is also not anticipated by Schutzman.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call André L. Marais at (408) 947-8200.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 08/12/02


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Paragraph beginning at line 5, page 6 has been amended as follows:

Periodically via status query 10, status [register] requester 13, sends a status request to another host computer on wide area network 275, such as a common carrier shipping service like UPS or FedEx. Status information 11 is returned and received by status receiver 14 which places the new status information in status database 16. When status receiver 14 updates the status in status database 16, it sets a flag on the particular database record indicating a change in status.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

15. (Twice Amended) An update processing and transmission system,

comprising:

storage means for storing status information [in response] relating to a commerce-related event;

status information retrieval means for retrieving said status information; message generation means for automatically generating a status message reflective of said status information; and

message forwarding means for automatically forwarding said status message to a point where it may be accessed by an interested party.

17. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein said status information retrieved by said status information retrieval means is contained on a second computer physically remote from a first computer on which said status information is stored and accessible via [said] a network.

20. (Twice Amended) An update processing and transmission method,

[comprising the steps of] including:

storing status information [in response] relating to a commerce-related event;

retrieving said status information;

automatically generating a status message reflective of said status information; and

automatically forwarding said status message to a point where it may be accessed by an interested party.

22. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said status information retrieved is contained on a first computer physically remote from a second computer which stores the status information.

24. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising separately storing said status information.